



Seaborn Broughton & Walford Foundation Newsletter

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For bookings please call Carol Martin -on 9697 7654 Monday to Friday - 10am - 4pm

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Nan's Letter Space

Dear Friend

John West and the SBW Foundation Performing Arts Collection

When John West quietly passed away on Wednesday 9th July, 2008, it was not only the SBW Foundation, but future historians and students of Australian theatre and the performing arts who lost one of their most generous benefactors. John West's legacy consists of his personal archives, accumulated during a long career, most of which was an ABC broadcaster in radio and television, but a significant part of which was privately devoted to the history of theatre and performing arts in Australia, culminating in the publication of his book *Theatre in Australia* published by Cassell Australia in 1978. His extensive personal papers, which are held in the custody of the SBW Foundation Performing Arts Collection at Alexandria, were presented to the Seaborn, Broughton and Walford Foundation on the 18th June 1991, at a large press gathering in the Foundation Function room in "Wattle House, Oxford Street, Darlinghurst, during which he described how he had accumulated his theatrical archives and why he decided to donate them to the Foundation.

In the evening of that day, approximately 140 "Friends" of the SBW Foundation attended the "John West Dinner" at the new Nikko Hotel, Macleay Street, Potts Point, held in his honour to acknowledge and accept the generous donation of his lifelong collection of papers to the Foundation. After being accommodated in various locations, the collection was finally transferred to the SBW/NIDA Archives and Performing Arts Collection at Alexandria in Sydney, where they are maintained in climate-controlled accommodation, and are being catalogued to facilitate access to them by students and research scholars. In May 1991, a small pamphlet was produced entitled *Get Me a Programme*, being a brief history of the "John West Archives", in which he related the circumstances which induced him to donate his collection to the SBW Foundation, an extract from which follows:

" On Tuesday morning, 18 June 1991, an historic occasion took place at the Seaborn, Broughton and Walford Foundation premises at Wattle House, 108 Oxford Street, Taylor Square, when John West's collection of his theatre

programs was handed over to the Seaborn, Broughton and Walford Foundation.

"John's collection very rapidly outgrew space in his apartment over the years and it then went to the A.B.C. studios in Forbes Street, where he used his collection of theatre programs as support for his long running programs "The Showman" (1964 -1990) and "Sentimental Journey" (1978-1995) which has run for 13 years, but with the move to Ultimo, there wasn't room for this collection."

"...In the end there was a line of filing cabinets packed with material. It had long since outgrown my accommodation at home. The A.B.C. could no longer give me space to store it. And then, one night at the theatre some few months ago, I was introduced to Dr. Rodney Seaborn, of the Seaborn, Broughton and Walford Foundation. He mentioned, in passing that the Foundation was establishing a collection of theatrical memorabilia and was looking for old theatre programs to augment it. My mind stored that information which, soon after, recurred to me and I thought, why not? It was time to pass on what I had accumulated (besides I would always have visiting rights). For too long I had been guarding my treasures like a miser."

"From what I already knew of the Foundation's activities I knew that I approved of them. Instead of letting what I had collected be subsumed into one of the large, already existing theatre storages why not get in on the ground floor as it were? I rang Rodney and asked, do you want them?

He said, enthusiastically, yes.

Slow curtain. The End.

No.. better than that. The Beginning.

JOHN WEST, 17 May 1991."

Originally used to support his ABC Radio programmes, John West's legacy of personal papers, including an extensive series of press clippings and theatre programmes, accumulated over a period of thirty-five years, on the history of Australian theatre and performing arts, will continue to sustain the research interests of scholars for many years to come.

Dr.Peter Orlovich
Director of Archives

The Opera & Arts Support Group Inc
invites SBW Friends & their guests
to a

Gilbert & Sullivan *Spectacular*

The Scots College Auditorium, Victoria Road
Bellevue Hill

Dennis Olsen, whose name is synonymous with
Gilbert & Sullivan and multi-talented
John Bolton-Wood, who has enjoyed great success
performing this repertoire, will entertain you and host
the evening and will be joined by

Amanda Muggleton, one of Australia's best
loved, most versatile and colourful leading ladies,
supported by a galaxy of stars for an evening of
pleasure.

**Geoffrey Chard, Robert Allan, Andrew Brunson,
Adam Palmer, Jonathan Alley, Candia Montessori,**
Under the musical direction of
Carolyn Kimberley, Jam Harding.

Friday - 10th October 2008
7pm for 7.30pm

Entrée - \$50.00

Includes drinks on arrival and supper with the artists.

The Opera & Arts Support group kindly donate 10% of
all monies to the SBW Foundation for bookings made
by SBW Friends through our Foundation office.

Bookings - Carol Martin - 9697 7654



DESIGN EXHIBITION 2008 **Showcasing the work of NIDA Design and Production Craft Students**

A diverse theatrical exhibition showcasing the work of
NIDA graduating Design, Production Crafts and
Scenery Construction students. Works on display
include set and costume designs, period and modern
constructions in costume and properties.

10th - 31st October 2008

In the Nancy Fairfax Foyer at NIDA

The Exhibition will be open from 10am - 6pm

6pm - 9pm performance nights only.

Free of charge



THE THANK YOU DINNER

A Feast to Remember

Written and performed by

REG LIVERMORE

Ensemble Theatre 78 McDougall St Kirribilli

When Roger Lovely has to go away on business for a
month he throws himself on the mercy of his
neighbours asking them to look after his three
children while he is out of town. When he returns
from his trip he hosts a dinner party to thank his
neighbours for the care they have taken of his
beloved Dorothy, Nicholas and Birdy. And so, in
appreciation of the kindness of his friends Roger
(lovingly) prepares a meal of Bollito Misto, using
extraordinary ingredients.

Founding member, Reg Livermore, returns to the
Ensemble stage in a strictly limited season of his
latest work. Renowned as a performer, writer and
director.

The Thank You Dinner introduces his latest
character, the larger than life, Rose Bay resident,
Roger Lovely.

Tuesday - 4th November 2008 - 6pm

Tickets - \$45.00

Bookings - Carol Martin - 9697 7654



**Discounts are available to SBW Friends
for Costume Hire at**

THE COSTUME SHOP

1st Floor, 401 - 407 Cleveland Street

Surry Hills

Phone - 9318 2511

Website- www.thecostumeshop.com.au





BY JEEVES

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Book and lyrics by Alan Ayckbourn
Based on the Novels by P.G.Wodehouse
Genesian Theatre 420 Kent St Sydney

By Jeeves is the rewritten 1996 version, which opened on 1st May in London and due to success the season was extended, through three theatres. It also went on to the U.S. and to Broadway in 2001.

The musical is based on the stories of
P. G .Wodehouse.

It begins as if the audience are attending a church fundraising concert, starring Bertie Wooster, but when his banjo goes missing, Jeeves suggests that Bertie entertain the crowd with some anecdotes.

With songs ‘ That Was Nearly Us’ and ‘The Hallo Song’. With funny rhymes and a couple of jazz pastiches (Banjo Boy and What Have You Got To Say, Jeeves?) it gets the audience interested.

Friday - 7th November 2008 - 8pm
Tickets - \$23.00

Bookings - Carol Martin - 9697 7654



Actors’ Forum play reading

DAYLIGHT SAVING

Independent Theatre 269 Miller St North Sydney

It’s the end of the summer, the last night of daylight saving and there is a full moon over Pittwater. A reunion is planned - a quiet tete-a-tete over dinner after twenty years apart. But a wedding anniversary has been forgotten and an ardent lover has given up the object of his affections for Lent. Nothing turns out as anticipated in this witty romantic comedy by the late Oscar-nominated Australian, Nick Enright. An inquisitive mother, a presumptuous neighbour, a brattish sports star and the unexpected return of a traveller bring mistaken identity and merry mayhem

Sunday - 9th November 2008 - 2pm

Tickets- \$20.00 Concessions - \$15.00

Ticket sales at door one hour before performance
time



Opera Australia presents

MY FAIR LADY

by Alan J Lerner & Frederick Lowe
Theatre Royal King St Sydney
Starring- Richard E. Grant and Taryn Fiebig
John Wood and Nancye Hayes

For all SBW Friends who missed out on tickets for our previous three dates for this production. Due to popular demand the season has been extended so you can still see one of the best loved musicals of all time. *My Fair Lady*, is brought back to life in this spectacular new production.

British film star, **Richard E. Grant**, in his international music theatre debut, joins rising star **Taryn Fiebig**, to play what are undoubtedly two of the most memorable roles in music theatre history. Henry Higgins and Eliza Doolittle.

With a delightful mix of comedy and romance, lavish sets and extravagant costumes, you’re guaranteed a truly ‘louverly’ night out with *My Fair Lady*.

Tuesday - 11th November 2008 - 7.30pm

A Reserve tickets - \$95.00

Bookings - Carol Martin - 9697 7654



LITTLE WOMEN

The Broadway Musical

Book by Allan Knee - Music by Jason Howland Lyrics by
Mindi Dickstein

Featuring -*Judi Connelli, Hayden Tee, and
Trisha Noble*

**York Theatre / Seymour Centre
City Rd/Cleveland St Chippendale**

Little Women, based on Louisa May Alcott’s own family experiences (and classic novel) follows the adventures of the four remarkable March sisters who come of age during the Civil War era. This timeless tale about the power of family, friendship and romance will capture the hearts of a new generation and captivate audiences of all ages.

Little Women embodies the complete theatrical experience; a night filled with laughter, tears, and a lifting of the spirit. The powerful and exhilarating score soars with the sounds of personal discovery, heartache and hope.

Sunday - 16th November 2008 - 3pm

Tickets - \$73.00

Bookings - Carol Martin 9697 7654



